



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994
133 S. Fitzhugh St.

YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: _____

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION

- *****
1. BUILDING NAME(S): DeMay Hotel (former Domino Inn)
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 3561 Latta Road (S.E. corner of North Greece Rd.)
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Irene DeMay ADDRESS: (same) N. Greece, NY 14515
6. USE: Original: hotel/restaurant Present: restaurant/apartments
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain public restaurant

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☒ g. stucco ☐ other: asbestos shingles
Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation = cast concrete block.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
b. wood frame with light members ☒
c. masonry load bearing walls ☐
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☐ c. fair ☒ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"Well, it's a 'green plus' - 'though there's not much architectural quality to it. It is, however, big and imposing, which gives it 'landmark' status."
P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Green plus

+

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☐ b. zoning ☒ c. roads ☒
d. developers ☒ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: large gravel driveway to east of building
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☐
d. densely built-up ☒ e. commercial ☒
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: N. Greece Fire District No. 1 firehouse across the street (to north)
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1909
ARCHITECT: not determined
BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: commercial: hotel

11c.

The original wood clapboard siding has been covered over with wood shingles on the first story and asbestos shingles on the second story (mid-1900s).

The open porch on the west elevation has been partially enclosed (c. 1970s-80s).

Contemporary wrought iron railings and concrete steps on the front porch and a fire escape on the east elevation have been added, c. 1950s-70s.

The original, 1/1, double-hung rectangular windows on the first story of the north and east elevations have been shortened and small, contemporary, rectangular, 1-pane windows have been installed (c. 1960s?).

At the east end of the north elevation, a first-story exterior door and the 1/1, double-hung window above it (2nd story) have been covered over.

17. Located in the northwest quadrant of the town, the DeMay Hotel is situated on a 1-acre lot on the southeast corner of Latta and North Greece Roads in the hamlet of North Greece. A large unpaved parking lot is located to the east of the hotel and a smaller parking lot is situated at the southwest corner of the building. A small lawn is located directly to the rear (south) of the building. The hotel is located at the main four corners of the hamlet and dominates this commercial intersection. Across the street to the west is the former Phelps Store (mid-1800s); the contemporary North Greece Fire District No. 1 fire house (c. 1976) is to the north. A small residential neighborhood of mid 19th- to early 20th-century houses is to the south and east.

18. The DeMay Hotel is an example of an early 20th-century, vernacular style commercial building. Constructed in 1909, it is frame construction; the original wood clapboard siding has been covered over with wood shingles (1st story) and asbestos shingles (2nd story and southeast wing). The main two-and-one-half-story block and the one-story southwest wing are on a cast concrete block foundation; the southeast wing is built on cast concrete block piers (no foundation under this part of the building).

18. continued

The form of the hotel consists of the large, two-and-one-half-story, hipped-roof, rectangular main block; the one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed southeast wing; and the one-story, gable-roofed southwest wing. Fenestration is regular and consists mostly of 1/1, double-hung, wood sash hung individually or in pairs. A shed-roofed dormer on the north elevation and a small gable window in the northwest elevation have diamond-paned windows. Eleven first-story windows on the north and east elevations have been shortened and small, rectangular, single-paned, contemporary windows installed there.

The main block is seven-bays wide and four-bays deep. It features a one-story, wrap-around open porch on the north, northwest, and west elevations. Historic photographs show that the open porch retains many of its original details: a beaded-board ceiling, square posts with segmental arches in between, wood decking, and wood screens with decorative lattice underneath the porch. The entrance porch on the east elevation has the same style detailing as the larger porch. The northwest elevation features a broad gable with a wide bargeboard and decorative gable window. Two historic neon signs (which read: "Dining Room," and "Tap Room") hang from the porch ceiling on the north and northwest elevations. The east elevation also has two exterior entrances to the basement: a shed-roofed, concrete block bulkhead and a hinged-door bulkhead. A tall brick chimney with a decorative, pointed-arched top is located on the south slope of the roof; a cast iron, swinging, "school house-" type bell sits atop the chimney.

The one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, southeast wing is five-bays deep and three-bays wide. Rafter ends are visible under the south eaves. The one-story, gable-roofed southwest wing has no fenestration and a tall, cream-colored brick chimney on the eastern slope of the roof.

The interior of the DeMay Hotel consists of the bar/tap room, the banquet room, kitchen, and five apartments on the second floor. Many of the original/historic features remain intact. In the bar are: the original pressed metal ceiling (painted white, but now yellowed from bar smoke); the mahogany bar (from 1945), and a cigarette machine (30-35 years old), pool table and juke box. The banquet room in the southeast wing is unheated and not currently used, but it retains its 49-year-old vinyl booths. When the DeMays acquired the hotel in

18. continued

1945, there were 15 hotel rooms upstairs.

20. Built in 1909, the DeMay Hotel is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of an early 20th-century commercial building in the town. It is historically significant for its associations with the development of the North Greece hamlet and its prominence as a gathering place and dining/entertainment facility for local residents for over 86 years. It is one of the few historic hotel buildings remaining in the town.

Although this is a vernacular, early 20th-century commercial building, the hotel has design features that are influenced by the American Foursquare style of architecture: hipped roof, shed-roofed dormer, open porch with square columns. American Foursquare is one of the few indigenous American styles. This design was influenced by the Prairie style that originated in Chicago and concentrated in early 20th-century suburbs. Vernacular examples were spread widely by pattern books and popular magazines. Most were built between 1905 and 1915; the style quickly faded from fashion after World War I.

The architectural significance of this building would be enhanced if the asbestos and wood shingle siding was removed and the original wood clapboard cladding was repaired and repainted.

The origins of the North Greece hamlet date back to 1807, when a dirt road (North Greece Road) was surveyed, connecting Ridge Road and Latta Road. This early road originally ended at Latta Road.

Around Dr. Hiel Rowley's property on the southwest corner, a crossroads community began to develop and by the 1830s, North Greece had a post office with Amos McKinney as postmaster. Alfred Phelps' store on the southwest corner became a hub around which community life revolved, and by 1850, Phelps was postmaster.

William Jenkins, born in England in 1800, a local farmer, may have given his name to the crossroads. The community was known as "Jenkins' Corners" or "down at Jenks" to the natives. However, Rev. A. Jenks was the first Methodist circuit rider to the area, so the origin of the nickname

20. continued

"Jenks" is uncertain.

The blacksmith shop in the barn now standing just south of the DeMay Hotel and the Methodist Church, once on the northwest corner, were other important facets of community life.

This prominent southeast corner of Latta and North Greece Roads has long been the location of important commercial buildings in the North Greece hamlet. The 1872 county map shows a small building marked, "W.T. Filer, post office" at the actual northwest corner of this site. To its immediate east is the "A. Johnson Hotel." The "L. Combs Wagon Shop" is located across the street on the northeast corner of the intersection. The Phelps Store is located on the southwest corner of the intersection.

The 1902 county map shows this site with a larger building (succeeding the post office) marked, "Mrs. Jos. Larkin, Store" on the southeast corner and the hotel is to the east, now marked, "Hotel, Jos. Larkin." A two-story, gable-roofed building with open front porch, the Larkin Hotel is shown in a historic photograph and was located on the site that is now the large parking lot immediately east of the DeMay Hotel. The Larkin Hotel was demolished in 1912. A carriage shop is located on the northeast corner of the intersection and the Phelps Store is on the southwest corner.

Constructed in 1909, the DeMay Hotel was originally named the "Domino Inn." It is reported that Rev. Alexander MacKenzie, the teetotaling pastor at Parma and Greece Christian Church, did not like the idea of having another "watering hole" around. The fiery Scottish pastor wished to instill a more "elevating" aspect to his community, where Saturday night frolics were customary in railroad times. Had the Hojack Railroad station been closer, the community may have possibly grown more than it did.

The 1924 county map shows the U-shaped footprint of this present building. It is marked, "Domino Inn, Wilson & Imhof" on a one-acre site. The site and the "Domino Inn" listing also includes three large, frame outbuildings on the lot to the east. The main, rectangular building there is of the configuration and placement of the Larkin Hotel on the previous map. Although another reference states that the Larkin Hotel was demolished in 1912, this 1924 map shows a

20. continued

building on its site that appears to be the Larkin Hotel (possible printing error?).

The 1930 suburban directory does not include the "Domino Inn" in its listings. It is reported that during Prohibition, the hotel became a speakeasy. Thirsty patrons in need of some spirits identified themselves at the door. Later the hotel became the "Corner House." Dancers loved cutting the rug here, until World War II gasoline rationing hit home and restricted travel. The Corner House closed in 1941.

In 1945, Raymond and Irene DeMay purchased the hotel. They installed the mahogany bar at that time, when they also remodeled the building. The DeMays opened with 15 hotel rooms upstairs, a banquet room with a bandstand, new kitchen equipment and the tavern. They built the men's restroom to replace the hole in the barroom floor, which was concealed by a partition for privacy's sake during the Domino Inn days. Another 1945 artifact remains over the restroom - a "men" sign with the likeness of a gent who resembles Clark Gable.

On Sunday afternoons in the late '50s and '60s, the DeMays brought in Wilmer and the Dukes, a college band. Friday nights were for fish frys. They used the dining room, as the bar was too small for the number of patrons who would come here. They threw special events on Raymond DeMay's birthday and St. Patrick's Day. Corned beef and cabbage were on the house. Crowds were huge, including the 250 who showed up for Mr. DeMay's last birthday.

Raymond DeMay died in June, 1974. His wife, Irene, still lives in one of the second floor apartments and maintains the hotel. She is fondly known of as "Mother DeMay" - as noted on the signs marking her personal parking space outside. Today, the banquet room is closed and dinners are no longer served. According to Mrs. DeMay, it is now basically a tavern. There are two bartenders on the payroll: one day shift and one night shift. A handful of regular customers continue to patronize the hotel. In 1995, it will be "Mother" DeMay's 50th anniversary here.

21. See final report for bibliography; Democrat and Chronicle newspaper article, "Welcome Sign Always Out at Mother's" by Jim Orr, May 25, 1994.



Larkin Hotel, demolished about 1912. and Domino Hotel (now DeMay Hotel).
LATTIA ROAD

(photo, c. 1909-12).



